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REMARKS

Upon entering the above amendments to the claims, claims 5-16 will be pending in this application and are presented for examination. Claims 1-4 and 13-16 stand rejected. Claims 1-4 are now canceled by Applicants without forfeiting any right to pursue canceled subject matter in a subsequent application. Claims 13-14 and 16 have been amended.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for noting allowable subject matter in claims 5-12.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Claims 13-14 and 16 have been amended to depend from allowed claims 5-12.

Applicants believe no new matter is present in this or any other portion of the present amendment.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 13-16 of the instant application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been canceled and claims 13-16 have been amended to depend from allowed claims 5-12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph for allegedly containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in a manner sufficient to convey to one skilled in the art that Applicants had

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Bing-Yang Zhu *et al.*
Application No.: 09/773,374
Page 14

PATENT

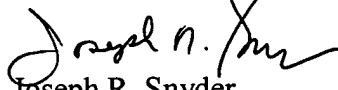
possession of the invention at the time of filing. To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have canceled claims 2-4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all rejections have been obviated and therefore all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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